

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Method for producing cutting tools provides a first hard material coating on a first region of a tool base body containing at least one cutting edge, using a plasma vacuum coating process. A second hard material coating is provided on a second region which is adjacent the first, also via plasma vacuum coating process. Hard material for the coatings is a carbide, oxide, oxicarbide, nitride, nitrocarbide, oxinitride or nitrooxicarbide of at least two of Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, W, Al. The first coating has a content of at least two of the metal elements which is at most 2at% different from the content of the two metal elements in the second coating if the tool is for higher adhesive strength than hardness. The first coating has a content of the two metal elements that is different from the content of the two metal elements of the second coating by more than 2at% if the tool is for higher hardness than high adhesive strength.